Customs Duty on Metallurgical Coke from China

3262. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs Duty on imports of Metallurgical Coke from China for Pig Iron Manufactures (bulk importers) and iron manufactures, using Corex Technology, is five percent, while it is 15 per cent for others, including Ferro Alloys Units;

(b) whether Ferro Alloys Producers Association (FARA), who use only less than five per cent of total imports, has represented to Ministry of Steel for reduction in Customs Duty; and

(c) whether the Ministry has considered their request favourably; if so, the action taken by Government to rescue Ferro Alloys Units and to make them competitive internationally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the budget proposals for 2002-03 Ministry of Steel had recommended reduction in import duty on Met Coke from 15% to 5% for Ferro Alloy producers and COREX units. However the concession has been granted only to the COREX units in the Union Budget 2002-03. Subsequently Ministry of Steel has again taken up the matter with Department of Revenue and has requested for a similar reduction in custom duty on Metcoke for the Ferro Alloy producers.

Loans to Tata Steel and SAIL

†3263.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major steel manufacturers, Tata Steel and Steel Authority of India, had been given loan out of Steel Development Fund, in the recent years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount of loan at the end of March, 2002 due on these institutions, separately; and

(c) the rate of interest fixed for this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) During the last three years, no fresh loans have been given to Tata Steel and Steel Authority of India Ltd. However, as decided by the Government in 1997, the existing corpus of the Steel Development Fund which is in the form of loans advanced to the Main Producers of steel will continue to be recycled to them.

(b) The amount of loan and outstanding interest balance due at the end of March, 2002 for these institutions is as below:

(Rs. in crores)

	SAIL	TISCO
Loan Balance	204.16	1008.43
Interest Due	454.42	177.40
TOTAL	658.58	1185.83

(c) The rate of interest fixed for the loan in 8% per annum.

Restrictions on import of Indian steel

†3264.SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America, China and some European countries have imposed various restrictions on import of Indian steel;

(b) if so, the varieties of steel against which Governments of the said countries have taken restrictive measures, alongwith the details of such measures;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these restrictive measures have adversely affected the export of steel from India: and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.